

News Release



For Immediate Release

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MORE PARK BOND FUNDS ALLOCATED \$166 Million For Urban, Disadvantaged Areas

SACRAMENTO – State Parks Director Rusty Areias announced today the allocation of \$166 million from the Roberti-Z'berg-Harris section of the Parks Bond Act of 2000, which specifically earmarks funding for urban areas and the most economically disadvantaged areas of California. The RZH money targets high priority projects that satisfy the most urgent park and recreation needs in the most heavily populated and most economically disadvantaged areas within each city, county or eligible district (See attached allocation sheets).

“For urban and disadvantaged areas with severe needs, which do not have the resources to pay for those needs, this funding will significantly improve parks and recreational facilities,” said Areias. “And that will provide the kinds of programs and activities that will improve the neighborhoods and the quality of life for all citizens of those areas.”

In making the announcement, the State Department of Parks and Recreation has now concluded the assessment process of using population figures to determine how the money is to be allocated. With that process concluded, the Roberti-Z'berg-Harris (RZH) block grant funding will now be available as an appropriation in the State Budget, that appropriation expected in July 2001.

The majority of the RZH funds, 83 percent, are provided as block grants to eligible entities in urbanized areas, based on population. The balance of the funds, 17 percent, will be awarded on a competitive basis. In addition, counties, eligible districts and federally recognized California Indian Tribes are also eligible for the needs-based grants. These funds can be used for either acquisition or development of recreation land and facilities. Limited funds can also be requested for special major maintenance and/or innovative recreation programs.

In order for eligible entities to receive the RZH funding, eligible entities must submit applications that comply with funding guidelines now being developed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation. The **Draft Procedural Guidelines** will be made available for public comment beginning May 20th and ending June 28th.

The public may submit oral or written comments on those guidelines at two public hearings, or, they may provide written comments by U.S. Mail, e-mail, or fax.

The two public hearings are scheduled as follows:

June 19, 2001

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Water District

700 North Alameda Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

June 21, 2001

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

First Floor Auditorium, Resources Building

1416 9th Street

Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

The mail address is: California Department of Parks and Recreation
Office of Grants and Local Services
RZH Comments
P. O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

The e-mail address is: mseam@parks.ca.gov

The fax number is: (916) 653-6511

All Comments must be received by the Office of Grants and Local Services, State Department of Parks and Recreation, by 4:30 p.m., June 28, 2001.

The **Final Procedural Guidelines** will be concluded and available for the public shortly after the June 28 deadline.

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